

REMARKS

Claims 51-65 are pending in the current application, with claims 20, 22, 25-27, and 30-50 being cancelled and claims 51-65 being newly presented for examination by this Amendment. Claims 20, 22, 25-27, and 30-50 currently stand rejected. Consideration and allowance of claims 51-65 are respectfully requested in light of the preceding amendments and following remarks.

Examiner Interview Requested

Applicants respectfully request an interview with the Examiner in order to discuss new claims 51-65, which, as argued below, are allowable over any combination of previously-applied references. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner contact Applicants' representative, Ryan Alley, at 703.668.8046 or ralley@hdp.com in order to schedule such an interview and obtain an agenda for the same, before issuing a further Office Action.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 20, 25-27, 30-33, 35-37, 39-41, 43-45, and 47-49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Pat 6,483,983 to Takahashi et al. ("Takahashi") in view of US Pat 6,009,234 to Taira et al. ("Taira"). Claims 22, 34, 38, 42, 46, and 50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Taira and US Pat Pub 2001/0028789 to Uchide ("Uchide"). Applicants note that each of these claims

have been cancelled, rendering the rejections moot. Withdrawal of the rejections under § 103 to claims 20, 22, 25-27, and 30-50 is respectfully requested.

New Claims 51-65

Applicants note that claims 51-65 have been newly presented for examination. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 51-65 are directed to subject matter similar to that in previously-presented claims 20, 22, 25-27, and 30-50, with additional material, formatting, and arrangement supported at least by FIGS. 8 and 10 of the original disclosure. Although the new claims are not currently rejected over any of the previously-applied references, Applicants provide the following remarks in order to expedite prosecution of new claims 51-65.

Claims 51, 54, 57, 60, and 63 each recite “menu management information including information indicating an actual data size of each thumbnail picture.” Applicants respectfully submit that none of Taira, Takahashi, and Uchide disclose such information. Specifically, Taira, which was previously applied as the only reference disclosing “thumbnail pictures,” does not disclose actual data sizes of pictures or storing the data size as separate menu management information. Taira discusses only a generic size of parent cells 90, which contain its sub-pictures, and is silent with regard to a size of the actual sub-pictures. See Taira, Fig. 5, elements 76, 84, 90; Col. 11, ll. 39-54.

Applicants further submit that each of claims 51, 54, 57, 60, and 63 recite that each thumbnail picture recorded in one “object unit” and “padding data is recorded in a remainder portion of the one of the object units . . . following the actual data,” if the actual data size the thumbnail picture is less than a size of the object unit. Uchide, which was previously applied to disclose “padding data,” appears to teach insertion of stuffing data only in packets in a FIFO memory. *See* Uchide, ¶¶ [0049]-[0051]. Packets in a FIFO memory do not teach or fairly suggest remainder portions of object units storing thumbnail pictures as recited in new claims 51-65.

In light of the above differences between claims 51-65 and the previously-applied references Taira, Takahashi, and Uchide, alone or in combination, these references cannot anticipate or render obvious claims 51-65. Examination and allowance of claims 51-65 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims 51-65 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

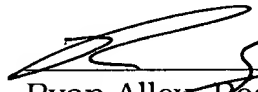
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Ryan Alley at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By



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